

**STATE SENATOR • MARTHA G. SCOTT**

# Scott Press Release

P.O. Box 30036 • Lansing • Michigan • 48909-7536 • (517) 373-7748



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 3, 2003

CONTACT: Senator Martha G. Scott  
(517) 373-7748

## **SENATE APPROVES SCOTT REFORM BOARD ELECTION BILL**

(LANSING)---Detroit residents are one step closer to being able to cast a vote this year on the fate of the Detroit School Reform Board. The Michigan Senate today approved state Senator Martha G. Scott's bill, Senate Bill 157, to allow for an election on the board's fate this year instead of in 2004.

"We have waited long enough to regain control of our schools," said Scott (D-Highland Park). "In talking to the people of Detroit I have heard that they want the opportunity to determine the future course of their schools. It is time to give the Detroit schools back to the people."

Senate Bill 157 will eliminate the waiting period currently in law for a ballot proposal regarding the future of an appointed reform board in a district that meets certain qualifications, such as Detroit. Once enough signatures were collected and approved, the question would be placed on the ballot.

The legislation allowing the state to take over the Detroit Public Schools, passed in 1999, allowed the state-appointed school reform board to function until 2004. At that time, Detroit residents would have an opportunity to vote on whether to keep the reform board, or to go back to an elected school

board. During the last legislative session, Senate Republicans passed a bill that eliminated Detroiters ability to even ask for a vote on the reform board. That bill died in the House of Representatives only because of time constraints.

“It’s time for the state and the legislature to stop meddling in the Detroit Public Schools,” Scott said. “My bill will protect parents and teachers from any further attempts to strip them of their ability to control their own schools, and let them once again decide what is best for our school children.”

Senate Bill 157 will next be considered in a House Committee.

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